

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 AID-05 /075 W
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R 291426Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5415
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5183

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, ET
SUBJ: PMAC PROCLAIMS NEW OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE TO FACILITATE
CAMPAIGN EFFORTS

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 5062, B. ADDIS ABABA 4505, C. ADDIS ABABA 2490

SUMMARY: ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINSTRATIVE
COUNCIL (PMAC) ISSUED PROCLAMATION AUG 27 TO ESTABLISH
FORMALLY NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY OPERATIONS COMMAND (NROC)
PREVIOUSLY REFERRED TO IN MEDIA, TO PROVIDE MORE EFFICIENT
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE TO COORDINATE DEFENSE CAMPAIGN
EFFORTS. PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHES CHAIN OF COMMAND WITHIN
NROC, INCLUDING AN OPERATIONS COUNCIL, SECTOR COMMAND
COUNCIL, REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES, AND
AN ADDIS ABABA COMMITTEE. NROC STRUCTURE ASSUMES ALL
POWERS OF FORMER REVOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES (RDC)
CREATED PAST APRIL (REF C). HOWEVER, THRUST OF NEW
STRUCTURE WILL BE MORE DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF COUNTRY,
RATHER THAN SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS FORMERLY EMPHA-
SIZED BY RD'S. END SUMMARY.

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1. AN APPARENT ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE BETTER CURRENT
NATIONAL DEFENSE EFFORTS, PMAC ISSUED PROCLAMATION TO
CENTRALIZE AND REINFORCE VARIETY OF CONTRIBUTING OR-
GANIZATIONS. TO THIS END, NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY OPERA-
TIONS COMMAND (NROC) ESTABLISHED, COMPOSED OF OPERA-
TIONS COUNCIL, SECTOR COMMANDS, REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL

AND DISTRICT COMMITTEES, AS WELL AS ADDIS ABABA COMMITTEE WITH PMAC CHAIRMAN AS COMMAND CHAIRMAN. NROC WILL ASSESS THREATS TO NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND ISSUE DIRECTIVES TO REGULAR FORCES, POLICE FORCE, MILITIA, SECTOR COMMANDS, MINISTRIES, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, AND MASS ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNING THEIR PARTICIPATION IN DEFENSE OF COUNTRY. NROC WILL HAVE ITS OWN SECRETARIAT TO COORDINATE ITS WORK.

2. NATIONAL OPERATIONS COUNCIL (NOC) WILL MEET EVERY 15 DAYS, OR WHENEVER NECESSARY, UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PMAC CHAIRMAN. NOC ALSO INCLUDES PMAC VICE CHAIRMAN, PMAC SECTEN, PMAC MILITARY POLITICAL AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATOR, PMAC DEFENSE AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATOR, PMAC PUBLIC WELFARE AND SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR, THE SENIOR MINISTER, MINISTERS OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, INTERIOR, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND INFORMATION AND NATIONAL GUIDANCE, CHIEF OF STAFF, COMMANDERS OF GROUND FORCES, AIR FORCE, AND NAVY, POLICE FORCE COMMISSIONER, FIVE MEMBERS OF PROVISIONAL OFFICE FOR MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS, TWO TRADE UNION LEADERS, WAR VETERANS CHAIRMAN, WOMEN'S, YOUTH, AND TWO PEASANTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERS. (COMMENT: NOC WILL OBVIOUSLY BE DOMINATED BY PMAC AND CONCENTRATE ON NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS. HOWEVER, IT PROBABLY NO ACCIDENT THAT THESE PMAC MEMBERS, CIVILIANS, AND DEFENSE PERSONNEL WERE CHOSEN TO OVERSEE SECURITY OPERATIONS.)

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TIONS, SINCE ALL ARE BELIEVED TO BE LOYAL MENGISTU SUPPORTERS AND DIRECTLY CONCERNED NOW WITH SECURITY. END COMMENT.)

3. FIVE SECTOR COMMANDS - CENTRAL, NORTHERN, SOUTHERN, WESTERN AND EASTERN - EMPOWERED TO MOBILIZE ARMED FORCES, POLICE FORCE AND MILITIA WITHIN RESPECTIVE SECTORS ACCORDING TO NROC DIRECTIVES. EACH SECTOR WILL HAVE SECTOR COMMAND OPERATIONS COUNCIL TO COORDINATE COMMAND EFFORTS WITHIN SECTOR AND PREPARE PLANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION BY SOCIETY.

4. EACH ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (ALSO KNOWN AS PROVINCE) WILL HAVE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ALSO, CLOSELY PARALLELING FORMER RDC. HOWEVER, REPRESENTATIVES FROM MINISTRIES OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, OF EDUCATION, AND OF FINANCE, AND FROM PLANNING COMMISSION HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED. (COMMENT: EXCLUSION OF THESE REPRESENTATIVES, ALLEGEDLY ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION (AESO) STRONGHOLDS, FURTHER EVIDENCE PMAC MANEUVERING TO ISOLATE AESO FROM CIVILIAN POWER STRUCTURE. END COMMENT.) REGIONAL COMMITTEES EMPOWERED TO COORDINATE AND

SUPERVISE REGISTRATION, SELECTION AND TRAINING OF CAMPAIGNERS TO BECOME VANGUARDS AND OTHERS TO BECOME REAR GUARD FIGHTING FORCE. REGIONAL COMMITTEES ARE TO MONITOR DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND ANTI-UNITY ACTIVITIES AND TO MOBILIZE MASSES IN EACH DISTRICT TO CONDUCT OVERALL SEARCH CAMPAIGNS AGAINST "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARIES" AS IT BECOMES NECESSARY.

5. SIMILAR COORDINATING COMMITTEES WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT SUB-DISTRICT LEVELS, AT OVERALL ADDIS ABABA LEVEL, AND WITHIN ADDIS ABABA CENTRAL AND HIGHER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS (KEBELES). THESE COMMITTEES WILL HAVE SAME RECRUITMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ARE FURTHER REQUIRED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES FROM WHICH RECRUITS HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN MOBILIZED, TO COORDINATE AND CONTRIBUTE TO TRANSPORTATION EFFORTS, AND TO PROTECT PROPERTY AGAINST SABOTAGE AND DESTRUCTION. OVERALL KEBELE COORDINATING COMMITTEE IS ALSO TO COMPILE INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION REPORTS.

6. ADDITIONALLY, NROC GIVEN "SPECIAL POWERS" WHICH INCLUDE: AUTHORITY TO ENLIST ANY ETHIOPIAN TO WORK DEEMED NECESSARY, TO UTILIZE ALL TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, TO USE ALL WAREHOUSES, BUILDINGS, GARAGES, FACILITIES, OR SERVICES BEING RENDERED, TO BUY WHATEVER GOODS AND MERCHANDISE NECESSARY FOR OPERATIONS, TO SUPERVISE RIGHTS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ESSENTIAL COMMERCIAL GOODS, AND TO DELEGATE ANY OF THESE POWERS TO SECTOR COMMANDERS. FAILURE TO MEET RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROCLAMATION PUNISHABLE BY RIGOROUS IMPRISONMENT UP TO FIVE YEARS, OR LIFE IMPRISONMENT, OR DEATH DEPENDING ON GRAVITY OF CRIME. NEW PROCLAMATION REPEALS FORMER PROCLAMATION STRENGTHENING REVOLUTION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES (REF C).

7. COMMENT: NEW PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHES IN FACT CENTRALIZED PMAC CONTROL OVER ALL SECTORS OF ETHIOPIAN SOCIETY IMPINGING ON DEFENSE CAMPAIGN. IT ALSO TRANSFORMS TO LARGE DEGREE RDC'S FROM FORMERLY MIXED SECURITY, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC APPARATUSES, INTO STRICTLY SECURITY MECHANISMS. ON PAPER AT LEAST, PROCLAMATION PROVIDES AUTHORITY FOR PMAC TO IMPLEMENT MARTIAL LAW AND TO EXPLOIT "REVOLUTIONARY" ORGANIZATIONS CREATED PAST THREE YEARS, I.E. KEBELES, PEASANTS', WOMEN'S AND YOUTH ASSOCIATIONS, AS WELL AS POMOA, FOR MORE PERVASIVE CONTROL OF SOCIETY. EXTENT TO WHICH PMAC ABLE AND/OR WILLING TO IMPLEMENT NEW PROCLAMATION WILL PROBABLY BE ACCURATE
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TO IS CONTINUED RULE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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